Approval of new drugs

1149. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the authority for granting permission for the new drugs lies only with the Drugs Controller General of India and the State Drugs Controllers are not permitted to grant new drugs permission unless approved by DCGI;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many State Drug Controllers have been granting permission for the new drugs in violation of the Drugs and Cosmetic Act and Rules; and

(c) if so, the details of such violation by State Drug Controllers alongwith the names of the companies and the names of the products?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Some instances of issuing licences by State Licensing Authority for drugs which falls within the ambit of definition of new drug (Rule 122-E) have been noticed. Government has issued strict direction to all State Licensing Authorities to be careful in this regard.

Drugs & Cosmetics Rules 69, 71 and 75 which pertain to approval of drugs by State Licensing Authorities have also been amended *vide* Gazette Notification GSR 311 (E) dated 1st May, 2002 requiring that products falling within the purview of new drugs shall be accompanied with approval, in-writing, in favour of the applicant, from the office of DCG(I).

Grant-in-aid for Government Central Pharmacy, Bangalore

1150. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government has sent any proposal for purchase of equipment/machinery required for Government Central Pharmacy through C.S.S. Scheme;

(b) if so, the amount of grant-in-aid sought for during 2002-2003 to strengthen the Government Central Pharmacy, Bangalore, which is manufacturing Ayurvedic and Unani drugs; and

(c) whether Government propose to sanction the grant-in-aid sought for?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) The Government of Karnataka applied for grant-in-aid for strengthening of their pharmacy under centrally sponsored scheme. The Government has sanctioned Rs. 55 lakhs as grant-in-aid for the year 2000-2001.

No grant has been asked for the year 2002-2003.

Vacancies of Auxiliary Nurses

1151. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of vacancies of Auxiliary Nurses in the reserved category of OBC have been lying vacant in AIIMS, Dr. R.M.L. Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi;

(b) whether as per Government policy, such reserved vacancies should be filled up within the stipulated time; and

(c) if so, the efforts made by the concerned Hospital authorities to fill the reserved quota of OBC?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Amendment in PFA Act

1152. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring imported food items within the purview of the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act;

(b) whether Government have assured that the proposed amendment